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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE AS  
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE

Applicants: D. Olsen, et al.

Int. Appln. No: PCT/US03/19776

Int. Filing Date: 23 June 2003

US Appln. No.: To Be Assigned

Case No.: 21124YP

Art Unit: TBA

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: TBA

For: NUCLEOSIDE DERIVATIVES AS INHIBITORS  
OF RNA-DEPENDENT RNA VIRAL  
POLYMERASE

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The above-identified case is a PCT application entering the US National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and Article 39(1)(a) of the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments prior to prosecution of the subject application. Any additional fees associated with this Amendment may be charged to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Please amend this application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** are reflected on page 2 of this response.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this response. **Remarks** begin on page 8 of this response.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE  
DATE OF DEPOSIT 12-7-04  
EXPRESS MAIL NO. 6V4213481  
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS  
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DATE 12-5-04